



**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

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The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of 2019 Meeting Dates was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on December 13, 2018, and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present: Mayor Skinner, Councilman Caminiti, Council President Corigliano, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Smith

Absent: Councilman Sweeney

Also present were: Christopher Tietjen, Administrator, Mr. John Bruder, Esq., Borough Attorney and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution No. 179-19** – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – Contract Negotiations – (a) Farmland Preservation Acquisition was read. Motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Sweeney arrived at 6:47pm.

Public Meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – 5 MINUTES PER PERSON – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Skinner asked if any member of the Public wishes to speak about non-agenda items.

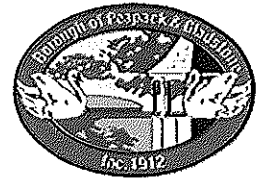
Ken Tiger – St. Johns Drive – Mr. Tiger said that the Sisters of St. John, owner of the road filled potholes on St. Johns Drive and he thanked the Council for pushing this. He said the job was lousy, but at least they did something, and he wants Council to not let up on the Sisters until the rest of the road is worked on.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of November 12, 2019. Councilman Caminiti motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed, with Councilman Smith abstaining.



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Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and second to accept the Executive Session Meeting minutes of November 12, 2019. Councilman Sweeney motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed, with Councilman Smith abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Donation of Block 1, Lot 5.03 (1.9 acres) to the Borough – Mayor Skinner asked if everyone has given this thought. Councilman Caminiti stated that he walked to the site and doesn't see the value in it, especially because of the oil tank. Council discussed that the property is of no value and poses a potential liability to the Borough. Mayor Skinner asked Mr. Tietjen to draft a letter that he will sign indicating that the Borough was not interested in the donation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilwoman Dietrich said that there are four welcome signs that were put up by the Historic Preservation Commission and they are in need of repairs. She continued that they are looking into repair costs and asked if the Borough would pay for repairs. Council President Corigliano asked if DPW could touch them up to buy time because he was thinking about the proposed PG 2020 project, which would include new logos and maybe new signs would be in order. Council discussed this. Mr. Tietjen noted that DPW has budgeted new street signs.

Councilman Smith asked if the Historic Preservation Commission has any ideas related to the Liberty Park work and Councilwoman Dietrich responded that this will be discussed at their next meeting.

Councilwoman Dietrich continued that the Lime Kiln platform has been cleaned up. She said that a local tree farmer has donated a tree for the Lime Kiln and it needs to be decorated for the holidays. It will be a 15 to 18-foot tall tree and the plan is to have Council pick it out, set it up and decorate it. Councilwoman Murphy said that because there is no electricity there it will need to have solar lights and so it was agreed that she would order these. Mr. Bruder stated that the Lime Kiln paperwork was sent in and that the County hasn't sent back the filed documents yet. He will keep the Borough posted. Councilwoman Murphy and Councilwoman Dietrich will coordinate the tree decorating plans.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION/APPROVALS**

Councilman Caminiti said that the government energy aggregation program it is now on the books as an Ordinance and he has spoken to the vendor regarding different deals. He noted that this is moving forward and hopefully the Borough will have something in place at the beginning of the year.

**ORDINANCES**

Reconsideration of Ordinance 1080-2019 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #1046-2017 to Appropriate Additional Monies Held by the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone for Improvements to Liberty Park.

The Mayor asked if there was discussion amongst the Council on Ordinance 1080-2019. Councilman Smith stated that he would like to address the Mayor's veto letter. Councilman Smith said that in the middle paragraph of the letter the Mayor states that it is imperative to have a definite number for the



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costs to improve the water quality and to renovate the park. Councilman Smith said that the number was presented at the April 25, 2019 special meeting and it's \$1.1 million. Councilman Smith said that he offered to update this estimate when Council gets the first big contract bids back in late January. He continued that cost estimates so far are running slightly under expected but the effort required to get the NJDEP permitting has gotten tougher than expected as the DEP has tightened rules this year. Councilman Smith said the second sentence notes that to date \$350,000 has been spent on soft costs without any improvements actually being made and he said that he does not recognize the \$350,000 number so he will ask Mr. Tietjen or the finance committee to speak regarding that. Councilman Smith said that there appears to be improvements to the water quality from the Phoslock and hydro-raking and the total cost for the work is approximately \$20,000. Councilman Sweeney stated that there have been Phoslock applications and Councilman Smith countered by saying that Phoslock treatment proposals had been brought before Council but were always turned down in the past. Council President Corigliano said that he did look at the numbers and the \$350,000 is off and he'd be happy to go over them with the Mayor.

Councilman Caminiti asked about the procedure regarding the veto and the number of days. Mr. Bruder reviewed what was required from Council.

Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion and a second to override the veto of Ordinance 1080-2019 and to adopt Ordinance 1080-2019. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed, with Councilman Sweeney voting no. Mayor Skinner stated that Ordinance 1080-2019 is adopted and shall be published by title only in the Bernardsville News in accordance with the law.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 180-19** Resolution for Open Public Meetings of the Mayor & Council for the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone for the Year 2020 was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Mayor Skinner asked if there was a motion to amend Resolution 180-19 to reflect the new starting time of 7:00 p.m. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 181-19** Resolution Setting the 2020 Holiday Schedule for the Borough of Peapack and Gladstone was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 182-19** Resolution Accepting a Resignation Letter from Scott Bowerbank, Department of Public Works Laborer was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council President Corigliano. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 183-19** Resolution for Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2020 – June 2025 was read. Motioned by Councilwoman Dietrich, seconded by Councilman Sweeney. Said motion was passed unanimously.



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**Resolution No. 184-19** Resolution Authorizing Borough Police Department to Participate in Somerset County Thanksgiving Weekend DWI Safe Passage Grant was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 185-19** Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the 2019 Budget for the Driving While Intoxicated Enforcement Grant Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948) was read. Motioned by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 187-19** Resolution to Appoint John D. Desmelyk as a Borough Department of Public Works Laborer in the Amount of \$38,000.00 was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 188-19** Resolution to Appoint Juan C. Florez as a Borough Department of Public Works Laborer in the Amount of \$38,000.00 was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Caminiti. Said motion was passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 189-19** Resolution to Appoint Jose R. Gonzalez as a Borough Department of Public Works Laborer in the Amount of \$38,000.00 was read. Motioned by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

#### **BILLS LIST**

**Resolution No. 186-19** Approval of Bills as signed and listed on the Bill Payment List in the amount of \$945,363.80. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was passed unanimously.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Finance** – Council President Corigliano stated that he will be speaking with Mr. Tietjen to go over the preliminary budget of 2020.

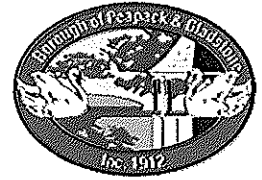
**Sanitation & Sewer** – Councilwoman Murphy stated she has no update.

**Borough Property** – Councilman Caminiti stated that Matheny is in receipt of the traffic counter and after the installation the Borough Engineer, Bill Ryden, will inspect it. Councilman Caminiti said that the lights are still not on in the parking lot at the fire house. He also noted that the five ton is parked there and it should be at the DPW. Council discussed. Councilman Caminiti gave a Liberty Park update, stating that he and Councilman Smith conferenced with Carter van Dyke and are mapping out the next steps for a public meeting.

**Fire** – Councilman Smith noted that the front door replacement at the fire house was a priority, and Mr. Tietjen said that he reached out to a builder, Mannion, and he has not been provided a price yet. Council discussed. Councilman Smith stated that regarding the new fire engine, the dealer still did not provide a price. Mr. Tietjen said that the fire department reiterated that they did make a request for the proposal book and it takes four to six weeks to print. Mr. Tietjen confirmed that the list price was



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\$402,000 - \$497,000 with add-ons of an additional \$301,000 and this is the documentation they are looking for in writing. Council President Corigliano asked if the fire department has looked at other options for the truck since the numbers weren't very well received by Council. Council discussed.

Police— Councilman Sweeney stated that the former Police Chief heard from the Chiefs Association and it looks like we are on track for a March promotional exam.

Roads & Transportation – Councilwoman Dietrich said thank you for the work on Highland Avenue and that the lines on the upper part of the road still need to be completed. Mr. Tietjen stated that the lines weren't part of the DOT contract so someone from the co-op will do it and it will be relatively inexpensive. Councilwoman Dietrich also said that the County's Street-Smart Program will be scheduled for May or June. This is a study that addresses streets and pedestrian safety. Councilwoman Dietrich said that there are two speed signs that will be ordered as soon as the ordinance is passed at the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Zoning & Construction – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no update.

Legal – Mr. Bruder stated that he has no update.

Administrator's Report – Mr. Tietjen stated for the record that he submitted his resignation to the Mayor and Council this morning and that the effective date will be sometime the middle of December.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Skinner stated that he has no update.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – 3 MINUTES PER PERSON – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

John Kappler – Holland Ave – Mr. Kappler said that the sign at Rockabye Meadow could use a little bit of TLC also, so while working on the other signs this should be looked at.

**CONTINUED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution No. 179-19** – Authorization for Executive Session for Certified Specified Purposes – Contract Negotiations – (a) Farmland Preservation Acquisition was read. Motion was made by Councilman Sweeney, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich. Said motion was carried unanimously.

Closed session started at 8:21 p.m.

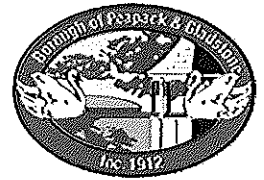
Public Meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Councilman Smith said that he would like to have a resolution to congratulate and thank Mr. Tietjen for the time and contributions to the Borough as Administrator. Council discussed preparing a written proclamation for the next meeting.



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There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, that this meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A. Bretzger".

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk